

BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY

The Blue Ridge Parkway is often referred to as the original “scenic byway.” The parkway’s 252 miles in North Carolina are recognized as an “All American Road” by the Federal Highway Administration. The route provides spectacular mountain and valley vistas, quiet pastoral scenes, sparkling waterfalls, and colorful flower and foliage displays.



N.C. Travel & Tourism

Blue Ridge Parkway

Construction began in 1935 under President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s New Deal program. During President Ronald Reagan’s administration, the last mile was completed around Grandfather Mountain. An effort of 52 years, nine presidents and \$130 million resulted in the 469 miles that connect the Shenandoah National Park in Virginia to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park in North Carolina.

Visitors from around the world enjoy the parkway’s leisurely drive and scenic views that provide a temporary escape from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. The parkway offers various cultural, natural, historic and

recreational opportunities. The internationally recognized drive blends landscape architecture and engineering, while protecting and proclaiming mountain culture. Activities such as camping, picnicking, hiking, boating, fishing and sightseeing are available

along the route. Along the way are five campgrounds for overnight visitors, as well as 72 trails and 25 tunnels for exploring. The parkway’s highest elevation is at Richland-Balsam Gap, more than 6,000 feet above sea level.

